

RESOLUTIONS, GOALS, AND STATEMENTS
ADOPTED BY "PEOPLE FIRST OF NEBRASKA"
August 27, 1978

I. Philosophical Statements:

1. We believe that we are people first, and our handicaps are second. We wish people would recognize this and not give us a tag like "handicapped" or "retarded".
2. We believe that we have to fight for our own rights, and that unless we do we won't get them.
3. We believe that people shouldn't just stay at home and feel sorry for themselves and ask for pity; there's a beautiful world out there, and we want to be part of it.
4. We believe that we should work to destroy the physical and mental restrictions on everybody, not just on ourselves.
5. We believe that it is important to get people out on their own.
6. We believe that it is wrong for the public to run us down and treat us badly.
7. We believe we can win this fight, if we work together.

II. Realization of Our Rights:

1. We have the right to stand up for what we believe in.
2. We have the right to live where we choose.
3. We have the right to equal pay for equal work.
4. We have the right to date, marry, raise a family, or get a divorce.
5. We have the right not to be threatened with being sent to an institution.
6. We have the right to have enough money to live on; this can be through money we've earned, or through food stamps, welfare, and SSI. We shouldn't be denied these if we need them.
7. We have the right to better pay in training.
8. We have the right to organize groups for helping ourselves.
9. We have the right to go to high school or college.

10. We have the right to take trips and vacations and to have access to transportation.
11. We have the right to have a drink.
12. We have the right to be treated like human beings, to be treated with respect and not to be called "epileptic", "stupid", or "retarded".
13. We have the right not be be pushed and bossed around.

III. Statements Relating to Services:

1. There should be better contracts in the workshops.
2. The workshops need to be improved.
3. More money is needed for the programs, so that we can have new, better ones instead of the old ones. The world is changing and the programs must change right along with it.
4. The workshops are too crowded; something must be done about this.
5. The staff (houseparents, foster parents, nursing home staff) shouldn't be so bossy. They have no right to tell us we can't go anywhere without them, or to tell us what to do.
6. People should not be placed in crowded places and foster homes; they should be placed in places that are right for them.
7. When we get frustrated, our staff should leave us alone instead of pushing and pushing.
8. We should treat each other with respect instead of being bossy toward each other, in the hostels and at work.
9. There should be separate workshops for physically disabled persons. (It's not appropriate for physically disabled persons to be served with retarded persons, nor are their needs the same.)
10. Physically disabled persons should not always have to wait to get the help they need.
11. Beatrice State Developmental Center should be closed; people have the right to get out of there.
12. We all know of situations where people were abused in the institution. This is wrong, and we must speak against it.

IV. Action Goals

1. That a group like Project II be started in every city and town.
2. That we form a committee which would represent all of us, that would get the communities behind us and get a statute that would guarantee all our rights.
3. That we have another convention next year.
4. That we show the federal, state and local governments that we can destroy any barriers that are put up in front of us; that we show them how we feel about being shut out.
5. That we work to pass a law prohibiting any business, church, or other organization from discriminating against us.